

Michael C. Mitchell
2089 Hacienda Street
Redding, CA 96003

Ref. Grant Application
Federal I.D. # 72-0564834

March 27, 2017

California State Parks
OHMVR Division
1725 23rd St.
Sacramento, CA 95916
Attn: Grants Manager

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the OHMVR Division regarding the current grants cycle application and review process.

I have been an active OHV recreationalist in my home State of California since 1967 and I retired from the U.S. Forest Service as a Outdoor Recreation Planner in 2008. Since 2015, I have served as an elected officer with our local OHV club, The Redding Dirt Riders. (RDR), a non-profit, (501.3c) group, that was founded in 1970. We currently have 146 active members participating in pleasure rides, club sponsored gatherings, and special permitted events, on public lands managed by both the Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) and within the National Forest System, (NFS), in our surrounding local area.

Unfortunately, I am unable to support the grant application as submitted by the U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, (Operations and Repairs; #72-0564834).

In the application, the Shasta Trinity N.F., (STNF), has failed to adequately reference a complete OHV management strategy and planned program with the supportive financial need. The grant application fails to reflect the concerns of many club members including my own. Some of the planning comments have been expressed repeatedly over a period of years. Most have generally been within the framework of participation in public scoping on general forest land management planning actions. These comments do not appear to have been captured, considered or retained by the forest as they are noticeably absent in the application narrative.

Although some positive progress was made between June, 2011 and late 2014 to identify and collaborate between RDR and the STNF on future OHV opportunities, there has been little direct communication, coordination or collaboration between the RDR and the forest leadership and program managers over the period of the past two grant cycles. The applicant references collaboration with RDR in the development and support of this grant

application. This both an unfortunate statement and is not an accurate accounting of the actual facts.

This lack of current engagement between the Shasta Trinity N.F. and RDR stands in stark contrast to RDR's long term and continuous partnership with the local Bureau of Land Management, Redding Field Office under the leadership of Jennifer Mata, Bill Kuntz and Sky Zaffarno.

RDR's elected officer's and the members of the club, meet routinely to discuss and coordinate various on-the-ground operations and future specific project actions. RDR contributes over 500 hours of volunteer service annually, cleaning, repairing, and constructing new OHV trail within the boundaries of BLM managed lands.

The BLM has demonstrated that they value RDR as an "OHV Stakeholder" and the club has responded in kind with the net result of identifiable and sustainable benefits to both parties and most importantly, the public at large.

Relationships like this do not happen by chance but are built on dedication, honesty and trust and a sincere outreach to work together for the betterment of all.

Thank you again for this opportunity to respond directly to your grant applicants based on a project by project basis.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Mitchell